



A deadly harvest: The effects of cold on older people in the UK

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Year: 2007
Journal: British Journal of Community Nursing. 12 (1): 23-26

Abstract:

Excess winter mortality of some thousands of deaths of older people has occurred in the UK for the past 150 years and shows only moderate abatement. Government policies in both health and social care have had little apparent effect, other than a slow decline in seasonality due largely to secular trends. There are a number of apparent misconceptions, commonly held in the public mind and subsumed in public policy, which need to be corrected in order to reduce the toll of winter cold on older people. The evidence shows that winter deaths are to a large extent avoidable. They are not due to hypothermia as is widely believed, may not be necessarily reduced by climate change in the foreseeable future and may only be partially reduced by improving indoor warmth alone. The key is an integrated policy which reduces all risks equally. Community nursing is well placed to play a pivotal role in such policies.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.12968/bjcn.2007.12.1.22688>

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Temperature

Temperature: Extreme Cold, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Europe

European Region/Country: European Country

Other European Country : United Kingdom

Health Impact:

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal



specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Injury, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect, Other Health Impact

Cardiovascular Effect: Heart Attack, Stroke

Other Health Impact: hypothermia

Intervention:

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Medical Community Engagement:

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content